International prices of seeel are lower than the prices of steel manufactured in India. However, the domestic selling price includes various components of levies and taxes such as excise duty, contribution to SDF, Freight Equalisation, EGEAF and JPC Cess whereas the international prices do not appear to reflect economic costs of production.

(d) To raise capacity utilisation and increase productivity the steel producers are taking measures to ensure availability of quality inputs, optimisation of captive power generation, adherence to technological norms, improved maintenance and modernisation of equipment and technological upgradation.

Discussion by the Asian and Pacific countries for preservation of foodgrains

*269. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian and Pacific countries have discussed recently in Delhi, the measures to preserve foodgrains stock;

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussions held and the names of the countries which had participated; and

(c) what new strategy is going to be adopted to preserve foodgrains for a maximum time without any loss?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) A regional workshop on warehouse management for bag storage of grains and a meeting of National Coordinators of regional network for grain post-harvest technology were held at New Delhi in collaboration with FAO/UNDP during September; 1986.

Apart from India, the other participating countries were Burma, China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

In the discussions, particular stress was laid on scientific storage of foodgrains, training in warehouse management and development of information system. The strategy that emerged from the discussions seeks to strengthen the regional network for better inter-country cooperation in the post-harvest field.

Losses to Modern Food Industries

*270. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the majority of the Modern Food Industries units at different lacesare incurring losses;

(b) if so, what are the financial performance of each of its units for the years 1983-84 and 1985-86; and

(c) what are the reasons for the losses and the remedial measures being taken to make them viable?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Out of 18 units of Modern Food Industries Limited 10 incurred losses during 1985-86.

(b) A statement showing unitwise profit/loss during 1983-84 and 1985-86 is enclosed. (*See* below).

(c) The main reasons for losses are slow turn-over and increase in costs.

The main remedial measures initiated by the company are streamlining and expansion of distribution network, adoption of sales promotion measures and redeployment of manpower.